

<!-- /* Style Definitions */ p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal {mso-style-parent:""; margin:0in; margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-fareast-font-family:"Times New Roman";} @page Section1 {size:8.5in 11.0in; margin:1.0in 1.25in 1.0in 1.25in; mso-header-margin:.5in; mso-footer-margin:.5in; mso-paper-source:0;} div.Section1 {page:Section1;} -->

Madam Speaker,

I rise today to welcome the many American Indians and Alaska Natives who are here in Washington to address the needs of Indian Country.

For the first time, leaders from the 564 federally recognized tribes will interact directly with the President and Cabinet members in the first annual White House Tribal Nations Conference.

President Obama, Administration officials, and many Members of Congress are engaging tribal leaders in an unprecedented conversation to hear first-hand about the needs and opportunities facing Indian communities and families.

Tribal leaders are also here to commemorate the historic opening today of the Embassy of Tribal Nations, a permanent home in our nation's capital for their family of sovereign tribal governments.

Migwetch – Thank You – to all the tribes who are here to participate and work on Indian issues together.

I yield back the balance of my time.